

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed December 4, 2009, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on March 24, 2006, January 30, 2009, and November 13, 2009.

Claims 1-16 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 4, 7, 11 and 15 are independent. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-9, 11-13, 15 and 16 have been amended to better recite the features of the present invention, and claims 3, 6, 10 and 14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Paragraph 5 of the Official Action rejects claims 1-16 as anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/0126108 to Koyama. The Applicant respectfully submits that an anticipation rejection cannot be maintained against the independent claims of the present application, as amended.

As stated in MPEP § 2131, to establish an anticipation rejection, each and every element as set forth in the claim must be described either expressly or inherently in a single prior art reference. Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Independent claims 1, 4, 7, 11 and 15 have been amended to recite a write-once memory device. The Applicant respectfully submits that Koyama does not teach the above-referenced features of the present invention, either explicitly or inherently.

Since Koyama does not teach all the elements of the independent claims, either explicitly or inherently, an anticipation rejection cannot be maintained. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are in order and respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17, 1.20(a), 1.20(b), 1.20(c), and 1.20(d) (except the Issue Fee) which may be required now or hereafter, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2280.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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